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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meeting of Convenience Store Working Group

INDIANAPOLIS (Feb. 16, 2012) The Late Night Retail Working Group conducted a public meeting Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Indiana Government Center South.

After a review of the mission, objectives and participants by Commissioner of Labor Lori A. Torres, the Working Group received updates from staff and external authorities on late night retail violence and best practices.

- A summary of retail violence issues was presented by IDOL representatives Robert Kattau of IOSHA and Tim Koponen.
- A presentation on recommended safety and security measures for late night retail stores was made by Ann Williams of OSHA and a member of the federal OSHA working group.
- Sgt. Rod Russell, Indiana State Police, summarized information learned via law enforcement in Indiana, including a series of recommendations on employee training.

Additional presentations were made:

- A proposal for a formal participatory Alliance was presented by Michelle Ellison, Director of INSafe. The purpose of the Alliance with the three major late night retail associations (Indiana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, Grocery & Convenience Store Association, and Indiana Association of Beverage Retailers) is to provide education and training opportunities throughout the industry and to provide specific consultative services as needed to specific stores upon request. She also presented other available resources for the working group to consider.
- Commissioner Torres briefed the group on recent discussions with other state agencies, including the Indiana Department of Health, the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission and the Indiana Egg Board on possible cooperative dissemination of information and outreach to late night retail stores via existing programs.
- Scot Imus, Executive Director of the Indiana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, confirmed his association and the industry's commitment to move forward to establish best practices for risk assessment and agreed upon safety practices and potential voluntary audit standards for participating organizations and stores. He noted, "We look forward to participating in the Alliance."

A period of public comment followed. Four family members or representatives of victims of late night robberies provided testimony to the working group demonstrating and arguing for the need for additional safety measures in late night retail establishments. Their testimony and recommendations were well received by the group and Commissioner Torres thanked each for attending and participating in the meeting. She assured them the group had "not only heard their concerns but intends to work to address them."

Representative Edward Delaney also presented his perspective on the identified need and noted that he wanted to see what the industry could accomplish working with the Department of Labor before suggesting legislative solutions.

The meeting concluded with decisions on work to be accomplished as the group moves forward:

1. Discussion of Alliance ratification process. The Commissioner of Labor charged the group with establishing industry agreement on the Alliance proposal and set a target of March for signing the agreement.
2. Agreement that a final report is targeted for issue in April or May that will summarize activities of the Working Group, including:
 - a. Establishment of late night store safety best practice considerations and recommendations
 - b. Identification of self-regulation recommendations
 - c. Recommendations for standards for safety audits
 - d. Recommendations for additional interaction between IDOL and the late night retail industry
3. The Group created an Oversight Committee to ensure accomplishment of the objectives and the production of the final report, and to monitor any activities beyond the final report. That committee will be composed of:
 - a. Dr. Timothy Koponen, Director of QMS, IDOL, Interim Chair
 - b. Michelle Ellison, Director of INSafe, IDOL
 - c. Scot Imus, Executive Director, Indiana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
 - d. Joe Lackey, President, Grocery & Convenience Store Association, Inc.
 - e. John Livengood, President, Indiana Association of Beverage Retailers
 - f. Theresia Whitfield representing employees

“The working group has established a clear plan of action to improve worker safety and violence prevention in late night retail stores in Indiana. This meeting added to the progress leading to anticipated major and beneficial changes in the industry. The willingness of all key partners in the industry to address these safety issues is commendable and I am optimistic that this group effort will result in significant benefits for Indiana workers in the late night retail industry,” observed Commissioner Torres.

A copy of the agenda for today’s Working Group meeting is attached.

About the Indiana Department of Labor:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. www.in.gov/dol.

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**Late Night Retail
(Formerly Convenience Store)
Working Group
February 16, 2012
Agenda**

Chair: Lori A. Torres, Indiana Commissioner of Labor

- I. Introduction and background
- II. Introduction of participants
- III. Mission – To facilitate the adoption and use of industry best practices for promoting worker safety and work place violence prevention in targeted late night retail establishments, including 24 hour convenience stores.
- IV. Objectives
 - A. Identify and implement a consensus for agreed upon best practices.
 - B. Secure and continue an industry commitment to implement appropriate best practices at each unique store.
 - C. Department of Labor and the industry organizations commit to continued support of workplace violence prevention through education and training outreach to employees and employers.
 - D. Develop and implement a long term method for outreach and training, continuous improvement of best practices and periodic review of worker safety in retail convenience stores.
- V. Issues – Contributions and Expertise of each attendee
 - A. Retail Violence – Jeff Carter and Tim Koponen summaries
 - B. Best Practices
 - 1. Ann Williams – Federal OSHA working group (power point)
 - 2. Sgt. Rod Russell – Indiana State Police
- VI. Deliverables from last meeting
 - A. Michelle Ellison – Alliance proposal, NIOSH poster and draft resource sheet
 - B. Commissioner Torres – other state agency assistance for information distribution
 - C. Scot Imus – outline proposal of risk assessment and agreed upon practices; voluntary audit standards
 - D. Any other deliverables of attendees.

[10 Minute Break]

VII. Public Comments

- A. Family Input
- B. Legislative Comments
- C. Other Public Comments

VIII. Next Steps

- A. Schedule Alliance signing
- B. Create Oversight Committee
 - 1. Interim Chair – Dr. Timothy Koponen, Director of QMS, IDOL
 - 2. Michelle Ellison, Director of INSAFE, IDOL
 - 3. Scot Imus, Executive Director, Indiana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
 - 4. Joe Lackey, President, Grocery & Convenience Store Association, Inc.
 - 5. John Livengood, President, Indiana Association of Beverage Retailers
- C. Final Report to be issued April/May by Oversight Committee
 - 1. Summarizing activities
 - 2. Listing of best practice considerations
 - 3. Discussion of Self Regulation, Standards, Audits, Recommendations
 - 4. Future interaction between DOL and industry

Adjourn